(c) the number of them provided with all the facilities such as buBld-ings, furniture, equipment and othier requirements; and

(d) what monitoring systems have been evolved to assess the progress of the Navodaya schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) 1985-86 2 1386-87 81

(b) In accordance with the scheme more than 90 per cent of the Vidyalayas are located in the rural and interior parts of the country.

(c) In the first instance, land and building are being provided by the State/Union Territory Governments and all the Navodaya Vidyalayas are being provided with furniture, equipment and other requirements as per their needs.

(d) The monitoring of the schools is done through the field visits by the officers of (i) the Ministry (ii) Navo daya Vidyalaya Samiti (an autono mous organisation set up to establish, develop, maintain and manage the Navodaya Vidyalayas]) (iii) National Council of Educational Research & Training (iv) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (v) State/Union Territo ries and through the Regional Offices of the' Samiti set up at Shillong, Hyderabad, Pune, Bhopal, Lucknow and Chandigarh and monthly progress reports from the Principals of the Navodaya Vidyalayas.

Extension of runway at Vijayawa da and Tirupati Airports

227. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by the Government to improve the faci- j lity, particularly the extension of runway at Vijayawada and Tirupati airports; and

(b) whether it is a fact that these are the only two airports under Southern region of Indian Airlines where there is no facility for landing of large size Boefing or Airbus type of aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI iMOTI LAL VORA): (a) Feasibility studies for developing Vijayawada and Tirupati airports for Boeing 737 operations have been carried out by the National Airports Authority. The State Government has been requested to provide land for the purpose.

(b) No, Sir. Coimbatore (Peela-medu) Airport also under Southern region of Indian Airlines is not suitable for operation of Boeing 737 aircraft. Besides, airports such as Cochin, Madurai, Trichy and Vishakha-patnam are not suitable for operations of Airbus A-300 aircraft.

Phasing out of Avro aircraft

228. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to take to fully utilize the facilities of engineering base available at Hyderabad in view of the gradual phasing out of Avro aircraft;

(b) whether Government propose to allot A 320 (Air bus) aircraft to Hyderabad base so as to fully utilize the facilities available there; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to strengthen the Hyderabad engineering base?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a-) to (c) The facilities at Hyderabad Engineering Base are being fully utilised at present. Decrease in workload of HS-748 operations has been compensated by taking over additional work-

load with ijegard to HS-748 aircraft from outside agencies like Indian Air Force, Vayudoot, Border Security Force, National Airports Authority, National Remote Sensing Agency, etc. and through establishment of certain centralised repairing facilities at Hyderabad. A-320 aircraft will have transit/night-stop operations from Hyderabad base. With the gradual phasing out of HS-748 aircraft, reduction in Engineering work load at Hyderabad will be made good through additions/reappropriation of engineering workload.

National literacy Mission

229. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress of National Literacy Mission undertaken by Government;

(b) what concrete steps have been initiated , under this Mission to improve the level of literacy in the country; and

(c) whether the allocation of Rs. 500 crores for this technical Mission are sufficient to achieve the goal of substantive reduction in the illiterate population in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P SHAHI): (a) and (b) The National Literacy Mission has been approved by the Government in January, 1988. The Mission envisages imparting of functional literacy to 80 million illiterate persons in the age group of 15-35 by 1995. Action has been initiated to implement the strategies included in the Mission. Concrete steps taken so far are as follows:

(i) State Resource Centres and State Governments have been requested to develop and ensure availability of standard teaching-learning material.

(ii) Production of films and materials has been undertaken for mass-media.

(iii) Steps have been initiated for involvement of Voluntary Agencies on a large scale through diverse methods as well as by streamlining procedures of financial assistance.

(iv) Pattern of on-going programmes has been revised by reducing the span of supervision by strengthening the training base and application of proven techno-pedagogical inputs.

(v) Mass Programme for Functional Literacy involving NSS and Non-NSS in Universities and Colleges, NCC Cadets is being expanded.

(vi) Post-literacy and Continuing Education is being institutionalised through Jana Shikshan Nilayams.

(vii) The functioning of Shra-mik Vidyapeeths and State Resource centres has been reviewed and steps taken to strengthen them.

(viii) State GovePnments/Union Territory Administrations have been requested to introduce Spatial planning.

(c) Rs. 550 crores have been estimated for implementation of strategies included in the Mission for the period 1987-88 to 1989-90